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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims is less than three, and the total number of claims is twenty.

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants kindly request the Examiner to contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone interview, to discuss the merits of this Patent Application.

Amendment to the Drawings

FIG. 1 has been amended to add the legend "PRIOR ART" as required by the Examiner.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicants have amended Claim 13 into independent form including limitations from base Claim 1. Claim 1 has been canceled in view of amended Claim 13. Claims 2 and 12 have been amended to depend from amended Claim 13 instead of canceled Claim 1.

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Claim 4 has been amended to depend from new independent Claim 20.

Claim 4 has also been amended to provide proper antecedent bases for all limitations.

Claim 11 has been amended to depend from new Claim 21 instead of canceled Claim 1. Claim 11 has also been amended to provide proper antecedent bases for all limitations.

Claim 16 has been amended to depend from new Claim 20 instead of Claim 4.

Claim 18 has been amended to depend from new Claim 20 instead of canceled Claim 1. Claim 18 has also been amended to provide proper antecedent bases for all limitations.

No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

New Claims

Applicants have added new independent Claim 20 and new dependent Claim 21. New Claims 20 and 21 includes limitations found in the originally filed claims. Support for new Claims 20 and 21 can be found in FIGS. 1 and 2 and at page 6, line 6, through page 7, line 12. No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Uehara, U.S. Patent 5,890,043, in view of alleged admitted prior art. Applicants have canceled independent Claim 1. Claims 2, 3, and 12 now depend from amended Claim 13, which the Examiner indicated contains allowable subject matter. Applicants thus believe the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-7 and 13-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated as allowable if rewritten into independent form. Applicants have amended Claim 13 into independent form including limitations of canceled base Claim 1.

Applicants have added new Claim 20 which includes subject matter, for example, an electrostatic doctor blade, also recited in allowable Claim 4. As confirmed by the Examiner in the Office Action with respect to the subject matter of Claim 4, the Uehara Patent does not disclose or suggest a device for printing including an electrostatic or electrographic printing device including an electrostatic doctor blade.

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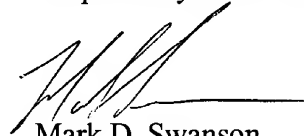
As all dependent claims depend from one of Claims 13 and 20, Applicants assert all claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not addressed in this response, Applicants' undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Swanson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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